

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claim 1. (Original) A granule comprising a core matrix and one or more coatings, wherein the core matrix comprises:

- a. an active compound;
- b. a synthetic polymer in an amount of 0.1 to 10 % by weight of the core matrix; and
- c. antioxidant or reducing agent in an amount of 0.2 to 5 % by weight of the core matrix.

Claim 2. (Original) The granule according to claim 1, wherein the matrix further comprises a polysaccharide in an amount greater than 2 % by weight of the core matrix.

Claim 3. (Original) The granule according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic polymer is present in an amount of 1 to 2 % by weight of the core matrix.

Claim 4. (Original) The granule according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant or reducing agent are present in an amount of 1 to 3 % by weight of the core matrix.

Claim 5. (Original) The granule according to claim 1, wherein the active compound is an enzyme.

Claim 6. (Original) The granule according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic polymer is a polyvinyl polymer selected from the group consisting of PVP, PVA and copolymers thereof.

Claim 7. (Original) The granule according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant or reducing agent is selected from the group of sodium thiosulfate, sodium sulfite, thiodipropionic acid, erythorbate, ascorbate or methionine.

Claim 8. (Original) The granule according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic polymer is PVP and the antioxidant is sodium thiosulfate.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The granule according to claim 1, wherein the core matrix further comprises a polysaccharide in an amount of 2% to 75 % by weight of the core matrix.

- Claim 10. (Original) The granule according to claim 2, wherein the polysaccharide is starch.
- Claim 11. (Original) The granule according to claim 1, where the core matrix is coated onto a preformed core.
- Claim 12. (Previously presented) The granule of claim 1, further comprising magnesium sulfate or hydrated magnesium sulfate.
- Claim 13. (Original) The granule according to claim 12, wherein the magnesium sulfate is present in an amount of 1 to 70 % by weight of the core matrix.
- Claim 14. (Original) The granule according to claim 1, wherein the granule is coated with a salt layer.
- Claim 15. (Original) The granule according to claim 14, wherein the salt layer contains 2% to 30% by weight of the core matrix and salt layer.
- Claim 16. (Original) The granule according to claim 14, wherein the salt layer contains 3 to 10 % by weight of the core matrix and the salt layer.
- Claim 17. (Original) The granule according to claim 14, wherein the salt layer is 2 to 100  $\mu$  thick.
- Claim 18. (Original) The granule according to claim 1, wherein the granule further comprises a protective coating.
- Claim 19. (Original) A process for preparing a granule, comprising the steps of:
- a. preparing a core matrix comprising an active compound; a synthetic polymer in an amount of 0.1 to 10 % by weight of the core matrix; and antioxidant or reducing agent in an amount of 0.2 to 5 % by weight of the core matrix;
  - b. and applying one or more coating to said core matrix.

Claim 20. (Original) The process according to claim 19, where the granules are prepared in a mixer, a fluid bed, a fluid bed spray dryer, a spray dryer or an extruder.

Claims 21-27 (Cancelled)

Claim 28 (Currently amended) A granule comprising a core matrix and one or more coatings disposed thereon, wherein the core matrix comprises:

- a. an active compound;
- b. a synthetic polymer in an amount of 0.1 to 10 % by weight of the core matrix; and
- c. antioxidant or reducing agent in an amount of 0.2 to 5% by weight of the core matrix; and

d. magnesium salt.

Claim 29 (Currently amended) The granule according to claim 28, wherein the core matrix comprises magnesium ~~sulfate~~ salt in an amount of 1% to 70 % by weight of the core matrix.

Claim 30 (New) A granule in accordance with claim 28 wherein the magnesium salt is magnesium sulfate or hydrated magnesium sulfate.

Claim 31 (New) A granule comprising a core matrix and one or more coatings, wherein the core matrix comprises:

- a. an active compound;
- b. a synthetic polymer in an amount of 0.1 to 10 % by weight of the core matrix; and
- c. antioxidant or reducing agent in an amount of 0.2 to 5 % by weight of the core matrix, and
- d. magnesium sulfate or hydrated magnesium sulfate.

Claim 32 (New) A granule in accordance with claim 31, wherein the magnesium sulfate or hydrated magnesium sulfate is present in an amount of 1% to 70 % by weight of the core matrix.